

Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee
Honorable Fred Thomas, Chairman
David Howard, Vice Chairman
64th Montana State Legislature
Capital Building
Helena, Montana

January 7, 2015

SENATE
PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY
Exhibit No. 8
Date 1/7/2015
Bill No. SB 5

RE: Senate Bill 5; LC 0406 by request of the Education and Local Government Interim Committee

Sponsor: Jonathan Windy Boy

Short Title: Establish all Hazard Incident Management Assistance Teams and provide funding authority

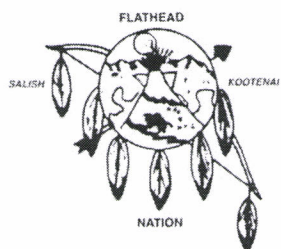
Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Good afternoon, my name is Shane Morigeau and I am here on behalf of the Confederated Salish in support of SB 5. The CSKT strongly supports SB 5 as Tribes often provide immediate response and resources in cases of disaster.

The CSKT teams have responded to several local disasters on or near the Flathead Reservation including incidents such as coordinated flood response and snow plowing. Because the Flathead Reservation is a checkerboard of Indian and non-Indian owned property, it consists of Montana citizens that are both Indian and non-Indian. Because the CSKT is based locally and equipped to respond to disasters and emergency type incidents; all Montana citizens located on or near the reservation benefit.

All Tribes have trained personnel and infrastructure available in the event of a disaster or emergency. Tribes can often respond to local disasters before the federal resources are deployed. This proposed legislation recognizes the good will of Montana Tribes in responding to incidents as well as the necessity in having Montana Tribes respond to local disasters where Montanans are affected. Please give SB 5 a positive vote. Thank you.

Shane Morigeau
CSKT Lobbyist
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THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

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A Confederation of the Salish,
Pend d' Oreille
and Kootenai Tribes
January 7, 2015

Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee
Fred Thomas, SD 44, Committee Chairman
David Howard, SD 29, Committee Vice Chairman

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RE: **SB #5** – An Act Providing for the Establishment of and Funding for Deployment of all Hazard Incident Management Assistance Teams: Allowing for Costs Incurred by a Team to be paid using Incident Response Expenditure Authority; Requiring Rules Promulgated by the State Emergency Response Commission to Include Certain Procedures for Teams and Team Members; and Amending Sections 10-3-103, 10-3-310 and 10-3-1204, MCA

Dear Honorable Committee Chair's and Committee Members:

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Western Montana, on the Flathead Indian Reservation, strongly support Senate Bill #5, sponsored by Jonathan Windy Boy.


The bill provides for Tribal governments to be reimbursed for incident management costs, if the team responding is responding pursuant to a team established under MCS 10-3-1204. This makes sense as many Tribes provide incident type resources and immediate response in the case of a disaster.

The CSKT teams have responded to several local disasters on or near the Flathead Reservation including coordinated flood response and snow plowing. Our reservation is a checker board; of Indian and non-Indian owned property. When needed, the CSKT respond to local events, as any good neighbor would.

All Tribes have trained personnel and infrastructure available in the event of a disaster. Tribes can often respond to local disasters before the federal resources are deployed. The proposed legislation recognizes the good will of many Montana Tribal nations in responding to local disasters, where friends and neighbors are affected.

Please support Senate Bill No. 5.

Sincerely,


Vernon S. Finley, Chairman
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Copy - Tribal Council
Jason Smith, State Director of Indian Affairs
Jim Durglo, Tribal Forestry Department
Dale Nelson, Disaster Assistance Coordinator